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COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

DATE: 25X1

SUBJECT Treatment of Refugees and Former Prisoners of War

INFO.

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PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

DISCUSSION

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STATE	WAR	NAVY	JUSTICE	R & E	C & D	AAF					

1. The principal officials of the Central Administration for Resettlers are the following:

25X1	President	Rudolf Engel (SED), born 12 September 1903.
25X1	1st Vice-President	(fnu) Daub (SED).
	2nd Vice-President	Arthur Vogt (SED), born 21 August 1894.
25X1	Personnel	Erich Lange (SED), born 5 May 1904.
	Chief, Section VII	(see para. 3 below)
		Robert Rentmeister (SED), described as "a fanatical Communist", born 23 October 1909.

C2 a total personnel numbering 104, it is stated that ninety-eight belong to the SED.

2. The Central Administration supervises 118 camps in the Russian Zone, which are variously classified as transit camps, quarantine camps, and "returnee" camps (in one case specified as "homeless returnees"). Locations, capacity, and number of inmates are as follows:

<u>State</u>	<u>No. of Camps</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Inmates 10 April 1947</u>
Brandenburg	13	24,500	4,586
Mecklenburg	26	26,900	1,194
Saxony	24	40,000	6,636
Saxony-Anhalt	23	39,650	583
Thuringia	32	36,630	2,567
Total	118	167,680	15,566

3. Section VII, headed by Rentmeister, has charge of the distribution of gifts from foreign countries collected by the International Red Cross. In this function it has the close co-operation of the Central Committee of the Volkssolidarit t. The goods delivered by the Red Cross are stored in Berlin-Lichtenrade (American Sector), where they are turned over to the Central Administration

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for Resettlers. The chief of Section VII makes recommendations for further distribution after consulting with representatives of the Volkssolidarität of the different states and of the Central Administration for Health and with the chief physician of the Sanitation Section of the Central Administration for Resettlers. The goods are then passed on to the state committees of the Volkssolidarität and by them to the local committees.

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4. The chief of the Central Committee of the Volkssolidarität is a Mrs. Sandner, who replaced Mrs. Tschesno on 1 April 1947.

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Comment: The latter is the wife of Michael Tschesno (by origin a Russian name, presumably Chesnov), a journalist (SED), who was a vice-president of the Central Administration for Resettlers until 1 March 1947. Both husband and wife resigned their former posts to establish a publishing house to be called Volk und Welt. the Russians are supporting their project and have provided a building and printing presses.

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5. In Saxony-Anhalt the Volkssolidarität goes under the name Hilfswerk der Provinz Sachsen-Anhalt. It is reported that in Calbe (D77) the Hilfswerk before Easter 1947 made a collection of money, clothing, and furniture for refugees and then turned seventy percent of the receipts over to the Strassenobleute for distribution.

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6. Order No. 1578 of the SMA of Thuringia, dated 2 August 1946, prescribed special rations for former prisoners returned from Russia. (This order is not applicable to prisoners coming from the western zones.) For the first fifteen days, while in the quarantine camps, they were to receive the following daily allowances (in grams):

Bread	600
Wheat flour	10
Groats	90
Macaroni	10
Meat	30
Fish	100
Bacon	15
Tomato puree	10
Oil	15
Sugar	17
Tea	2
Pepper	3
Vinegar	2
Potatoes	600
Cabbage	170
Carrots	45
Onions	30
Beets	40
Pickles and vegetables	35
Soap	10

Returnees who do not have to stay in a quarantine camp receive travel ration coupons representing approximately the same quantities for a fifteen-day period.

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